



Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District

Administrative Offices. 510 S. Vermont Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90020-1975. (213) 738-2981. <http://openspacedistrict.lacounty.info>

May 27, 2014

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**AMEND THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT LIST PURSUANT TO SECTION (3), SUBSECTION (d) OF THE SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS PROPOSITION OF 1996, ALLOCATE SPECIFIED EXCESS GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT TO THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY, AND AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXCESS FUNDS GRANT TO THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR THE PUERCO CANYON PROPERTIES ACQUISITION PROJECT
(THIRD DISTRICT)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate a not-to-exceed amount of \$5,265,000 of Specified Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District, to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, who will assign its right to apply for grant funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the acquisition of 24 parcels of land in Puerco Canyon and in parts of Corral Canyon and Malibu Canyon above the Santa Monica Bay.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed Puerco Canyon Properties Acquisition Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the project.
2. Amend the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's project list, most recently amended on February 11, 2014, to add the acquisition of 24 parcels of land known as the Puerco Canyon Properties.

3. Allocate a not-to-exceed amount of \$5,265,000 of Specified Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the Puerco Canyon Properties Acquisition Project.

4. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant, not to exceed \$5,265,000, for the proposed Puerco Canyon Properties Acquisition Project after the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy assigns the right to apply to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and when applicable conditions have been met, including, but not limited to, clearances from the Departments of Public Works and Regional Planning, and to administer the grant as of the date of this action and pursuant to the procedures in the Procedural Guide for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy; otherwise, funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will add 24 parcels of land, known as the Puerco Canyon Properties, to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's (SMMC) project list, and allocate Specified Excess Funds, not to exceed \$5,265,000, available to the Third Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), for a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for the proposed Puerco Canyon Properties Acquisition Project (Project).

The proposed Project consists of the acquisition of 24 parcels of land, known as the Puerco Canyon Properties, totaling approximately 703 acres and located in Puerco Canyon and in parts of Corral Canyon and Malibu Canyon above the Santa Monica Bay, for the preservation of natural open space and development of a park. The estimated total project cost is \$11,265,000. The recommended Specified Excess Funds, not to exceed \$5,265,000, will be supplemented with \$1,500,000 in State of California Coastal Conservancy funds and \$4,500,000 in Wildlife Conservation Board funds. The SMMC, which is the designated recipient of Specified Excess Funds for projects in the Santa Monica Mountains under the 1996 Proposition, will assign its right to apply for the Specified Excess Funds to MRCA.

It is also recommended, that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director), in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, be authorized to award a grant after SMMC assigns the right to apply for the funds to MRCA, and when applicable conditions have been met, including but not limited to, grantee qualifications, consistency between the project and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, clearances from the Departments of Public Works (DPW) and Regional Planning (DRP), as well as grantee agreement with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the proposed Project, and to administer the grant under the procedures previously approved by the Board.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) by creating additional publicly-owned open space in the Third Supervisorial District.

Strategic Asset Management Principles Compliance

Sufficient appropriation for the grant, not to exceed \$5,265,000, is budgeted in the Third Supervisorial District's portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. SMMC and MRCA have each met this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition requires that funds provided to the SMMC be expended "solely for projects approved by the Board, pursuant to such criteria as the Board may, in its discretion, adopt," provided that those projects are identified in the SMMC's annual work program transmitted to the Governor and State Legislature, and as may be amended from time to time, after noticed public hearings held in November of 2003 and August of 2004.

The 1996 Proposition further provides that the Board may disapprove a project within the boundaries of a city only upon a finding that the acquisition or improvement may impact access to or use of a site identified or proposed for present or future sanitary landfill purposes. In addition, the Board previously adopted procedural requirements requiring a review of proposed SMMC projects relative to their impact on existing or proposed highways, and their consistency with General or Area Plans.

The proposed Project meets the procedural requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and has been reviewed in accordance with the SMMC's revised Procedural Guide, adopted by the Board on June 17, 1997.

DPW's and DRP's review of the proposed Project are currently under way, and clearances from each department will be obtained as a condition of the grant.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended acquisitions would be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District for specified projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director would be authorized to award a grant when all applicable conditions have been met.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

All public agency projects funded by RPOSD are required to comply with CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. MRCA is the lead agency for the proposed Project.

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from CEQA according to Section 15316 of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Class 16 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the proposed Project consists of acquisition of land in order to establish a park where the land is in a natural condition.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the SMMC's Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 1997 and used since then for the administration of similar grant projects. Prior to execution, the Grant Project Agreement will be reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of these recommendations will authorize the Director to award a grant to the MRCA for the acquisition of 24 parcels of land totaling approximately 703 acres in Puerco Canyon and in parts of Corral Canyon and Malibu Canyon above the Santa Monica Bay. It will have no impact on any other RPOSD-funded projects.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this Board letter to the Chief Executive Office, Facilities and Asset Management Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JB:WRO:tb

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Chief Executive Office